

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method for sensing accelerations and other forces. The apparatus having a capacitance pick-off force sensor having a proof mass that is suspended relative to a relatively stationary frame by a plurality of serpentine suspension members 5 having internal caging. The device provides easily implemented fabrication modification for trading-off between input range and pick-off sensitivity by altering etching periods of the serpentine suspension members. The input range and pick-off sensitivity can be traded-off by enlarging or reducing the quantity of elongated flexure fingers forming the serpentine suspension member. Different ones of the elongated flexure fingers are optionally formed 10 with different thicknesses, whereby the serpentine suspension member exhibits a spring rate that progressively increases as it is compressed by in-plane motion of the proof mass relative to the relatively stationary frame.